



Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

FBIS-AFR-90-004
Friday
5 January 1990

Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

FBIS-AFR-90-004

CONTENTS

5 January 1990

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not previously disseminated in electronic form.

EAST AFRICA

Ethiopia

EPRDF Claims 100 Government Troops Killed [Voice of Tigray Revolution]	1
Oromo Rebels Claim Over 957 Government Dead [Voice of Oromo Liberation]	1

Uganda

BBC Reports Rebel 'Upsurge', New Attack	1
---	---

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Spokesman Confirms Meetings Held With USSR [SAPA]	2
Pik Botha Meets With Hungarian Foreign Minister [Johannesburg TV]	2
Further on 4 Jan Talks [SAPA]	2
Meets With Opposition Leaders [SAPA]	2
Meets Press on Hungarian Talks [Johannesburg TV]	3
Returns, Discusses Visit [Johannesburg Radio]	3
Contact 'May Lead' to Ties [SAPA]	3
Botha Claims ANC Political Philosophy 'Dead' [SAPA]	4
ANC Says Hungarian Leaders 'Betray' Majority [THE STAR 5 Jan]	5
Embassy in London Criticizes UK TV Program [SAPA]	5
4 Jan Press Review on Current Problems, Issues [THE STAR, etc.]	5
5 Jan Press Review [THE STAR, etc.]	7

WEST AFRICA

Burkina Faso

Involvement in Liberian Rebellion Denied [Ouagadougou Radio]	8
--	---

Ivory Coast

BBC Reports on Refugee Influx From Liberia	8
No Plans for More Border Security [FRATERNITE MATIN 5 Jan]	9

Liberia

Doe Says Troops 'Prepared' To Protect Border [Monrovia Radio ELWA]	9
Nimba Official Calls for Vigilance [Monrovia Radio ELWA]	9
Army Said 'in Full Control' [AFP]	9
Protest Sent to Abidjan [Paris International]	10
Doe Gives News Conference [Monrovia Radio ELWA]	10
Observers Note 'Isolation' of Samuel Doe Regime [Libreville Africa No 1]	12
* President Doe Undecided on 1991 Elections [DAILY OBSERVER 6 Nov]	12
* Students Arrested for Political Ban Violation [DAILY OBSERVER 17 Oct]	13
* East Europe Events Prompt Third World Study [DAILY OBSERVER 10 Nov]	13
* Seminar Examines Growing Islamic Influence [DAILY OBSERVER 6 Nov]	14

Mali

President Traore Gives New Year's Address [Bamako Radio]	14
--	----

Ethiopia

EPRDF Claims 100 Government Troops Killed

EA0401200990 (Clandestine) Voice of the Tigray
Revolution in Tigrinya 1500 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Excerpts] The heroic army of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front [EPRDF] has put 458 enemy soldiers out of action in Jihur. It will be recalled that continuing their offensive in northern Shewa, the heroic EPRDF forces launched an offensive on the enemy force on 31 December 1989, putting 458 enemy soldiers out of action and the details are: 100 enemy soldiers killed; 177 wounded; and 181 soldiers captured, according to reports from the northern Shewa front. The dead include oppressed farmers who received just 15 days of training at the Nazreth and Debre Zeit training centers. The captured soldiers have revealed that they were faced with great hunger and disease while they were training.

In the engagement in Jihur, 178 small arms: 11 RPG launchers; 5 Bren guns; 285 rounds of ammunition of various kinds; and 3 radio communications sets were captured by our heroic forces. [passage omitted]

Whereas the EPRDF forces were striking severe blows against the enemy forces during December on all fronts, the Workers' Party of Ethiopia radio last night stated that Army was in pursuit of the EPRF army. This news will probably astonish its listeners and those on the different fronts watching events in the EPRDF-liberated areas. The objective of the broadcast is clear to all: It is to confuse the people.

Oromo Rebels Claim Over 957 Government Dead

EA0401210790 (Clandestine) Voice of Oromo
Liberation in Oromo 1630 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Text] Asosa Administrative Area—The Oromo Liberation Army [OLA] won a great victory by completely destroying five enemy camps on 2 January 1990. The enemy camps captured by the OLA in those successful operations are in: 1) Dul; 2) (Kota Worke); 3) (Agubela); 4) (Megazan); and 5) (Gamel). Dul and (Gamel) are the towns of the district.

Enemy weapons and equipment captured by the heroic OLA in its operations lasting a few hours against the five camps on 2 January 1990 include: two (?ACC); three 76mm mortars; two ZU-23 anti-aircraft guns; six 120mm mortars; seven [words indistinct] two RPG-7 launchers; two (?KCM); and seven military vehicles. A large quantity of small weapons and various types of ammunition were also captured and became the property of the Oromo people.

In the offensive in Asosa Administrative area, the 131st brigade was destroyed by the OLA. In the battle, over 957 Workers Party of Ethiopia soldiers were killed, over 200 wounded and 117 captured. Heavy losses were inflicted on the enemy and its forces. The area is

completely under control and the inhabitants have been totally liberated from foreign oppression.

Uganda

BBC Reports Rebel 'Upsurge', New Attack

AB0401215890 London BBC World Service in English
1615 GMT 4 Jan 90

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] There seems to have been an upsurge of rebel activity in Uganda. Yesterday, we carried reports of deaths in the Apach District in northern Uganda in a rebel attack on 15 December. Now information is coming out about an attack in Kumi District in eastern Uganda. From Kampala, Festowe Obongo telexed this report:

[Begin studio announcer recording] Eight local members of the Local Defense Forces, the LDF, were killed on 21 December when a large group of rebels attacked a detachment of the National Resistance Army, NRA at Atatur in Kumi District. The LDF is a force set up to defend the local people. Two wives of soldiers were also killed. The attackers stole nine cattle and burnt the huts of the military unit.

The attack, which went on for more than 1 hour, left several NRA soldiers injured, some of them seriously. There were no reports of any rebels killed or injured. But the Army unit was taken unawares. People in the area said that the rebels were in large numbers, heavily armed, and dressed in military uniforms similar to those of the NRA, with some of them carrying pangoes and big knives. Local people added that the attackers terrorized a nearby government hospital. Four of those killed including a woman are close relatives of the Local Resistance Council, LRC chairman, Haji Umar Okedee. The attackers captured a number of civilians, 11 of whom have since been released. Some of the released captives later said they had traveled for miles carrying blankets, ammunition, saucepans, boots, and other looted property. On their release, they were cautioned by the rebel commander not to give out any information about the rebels.

The LRC chairman, Haji Umar Okedee, advised the local people to stop perpetuating what he called rebel motives and activities which cost lives. And more specifically, he told them to stop giving sanctuary to rebels, warning that the consequences of such antipeace practice [word indistinct] better. Some eyewitnesses suggest that the NRA moved in shortly afterwards to contain the situation with helicopter support. The sound of bombardment was heard as far as Alisha, more than 20 miles away. [end recording]

Spokesman Confirms Meetings Held With USSR*MB0501144790 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1437 GMT 5 Jan 90*

[Text] Johannesburg, Jan 5, SAPA—A Foreign Affairs spokesman on Friday [5 January] confirmed the South African Government has met regularly with the Soviet Union but denied any knowledge of meetings between the two countries taking place monthly.

Responding to reports that the government was meeting the Soviet Union almost once a month, the spokesman said:

"We have had contact with the Soviet Union in the past, for example over the Namibian issue, and should we wish to pursue talks we would do so directly."

The spokesman said the reports originated from Friday's press conference with Foreign Minister Mr Pik Botha on his return from Hungary who was asked if Hungary could mediate talks between South Africa and the Soviet Union.

Mr Botha said if South Africa wanted to hold talks with the Soviet Union they would do so directly and would not need a mediator.

"I don't want to say we're not having regular contact, but the minister didn't refer to meetings being held once a month," the spokesman said.

Pik Botha Meets With Hungarian Foreign Minister*MB0401171090 Johannesburg Television Service
in Afrikaans 1600 GMT 4 Jan 90*

[Text] South Africa and Hungary have agreed to start the process of gradually establishing diplomatic relations. This statement follows talks between South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha and Gyula Horn, his Hungarian counterpart, today in Budapest.

The talks lasted 4 and ½ hours and were described by Mr Botha as being very positive, useful, and instructive.

Both governments agreed that the meeting was part of a process of the breaking down of walls separating governments, countries, and people. The two men also discussed the dramatic events in central and Eastern Europe as well as developments in South and southern Africa.

The Hungarian foreign minister said he would continue his dialogue with South Africa within the framework of its rejection of apartheid. Mr Horn said his government welcomed any proof that the South African Government was granting democratic rights to all its citizens. He stated his government supported efforts by South Africa to seek greater international cooperation.

Both ministers agreed that left- and right-wing extremists should cease expressing their viewpoints and that ideological differences should be put aside.

Further on 4 Jan Talks*MB0401172790 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1645 GMT 4 Jan 90*

[Excerpts] London Jan 4 SAPA—South Africa [SA] and Hungary have agreed to start a gradual process of establishing official diplomatic relations.

This statement followed discussions on Thursday [4 January] between the South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha, and his Hungarian counterpart, Gyula Horn, in Budapest. [passage omitted]

During a meeting with his counterpart, Mr Botha expressed his appreciation to Mr Horn for the positive contribution of the Hungarian contingent of UNTAG [UN Transition Assistance Group] who had served in Namibia.

Mr Horn on his part welcomed South Africa's role in the peace process in Namibia, reports reaching SAPA in London said.

He also expressed his appreciation of the South African Government's declared commitment towards power sharing for all in South Africa, and for the role played by President F.W. de Klerk in the talks he had with other African leaders.

At the end of his visit to Hungary, Mr Botha laid wreaths at the war cemetery in Budapest where 20 South African [SA] Air Force personnel were buried during the Second World War.

Mr Botha laid the wreaths in his capacity as honorary colonel of the South African Air Force and on behalf of the SA Government and Defence Force.

In messages on the wreaths, in Afrikaans, English and Hungarian, homage was paid to the fallen South Africans.

He was accompanied by the South African ambassador in Vienna, Miss Cecile Schmidt, and officials of the SA and Hungarian departments of foreign affairs. [passage omitted]

Meets With Opposition Leaders*MB0401174190 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1651 GMT 4 Jan 90*

[Text] London Jan 4 SAPA—During his stay in Hungary Foreign Minister Pik Botha met two opposition leaders, Miklos Szabo, the leader of the Free Democratic Party, and Professor Geza Zeszenszky, the leader of the Democratic Forum.

Both meetings lasted longer than an hour and were held in "good spirits," reports reaching London said.

Mr Botha informed the two about developments in South and southern Africa and they gave their views about events in their country and in Eastern Europe.

Hungary is to hold free elections, probably in March this year, and these parties are expected to do well.

Mr Botha's visit was prominently reported in all Hungarian papers and on radio and television.

It was pointed out Hungary was interested in deepening economic and humanitarian cooperation with South Africa.

Given the large number of ethnic Hungarians living in South Africa, it was expected visa requirements between the two countries might be relaxed.

Meets Press on Hungarian Talks

*MB0501054890 Johannesburg Television Service
in English 0500 GMT 5 Jan 90*

[From the "Good Morning South Africa" program]

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, is to arrive back in South Africa this morning after his surprise 2-day visit to Hungary, the first visit by a South African minister to a Warsaw Pact country.

He will address a news conference at Jan Smuts Airport shortly after his arrival.

Mr Botha described the talks with his Hungarian counterpart, Gyula Horn, as very useful and instructive. The result: an agreement between South Africa and Hungary to begin a gradual process of establishing diplomatic relations.

However, Mr Horn said that Hungary would only maintain dialogue with South Africa within the framework of the rejection of apartheid by South Africa.

At a news conference before his departure from Budapest last night, Mr Botha had this to say on the issue:

[Begin Botha video recording] My government is in the process of demolishing apartheid. We have already withdrawn a large number of laws which discriminated against our citizens of color. We are in the process of removing racial discrimination altogether. [end recording]

Mr Botha said Eastern Europe's economic future was very important to southern Africa.

[Begin Botha video recording] In Africa, there is a concern that the industrialized nations may turn their attention on East Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Romania, and Hungary and that Africa might be left aside and might lose the attention and that Africa's problems might not receive proper attention by the Western states any longer.

So, I wanted to ensure that the government of this country is fully informed of the events in our region, of the problems of our region, particularly economic development problems. We in southern Africa will have to group together, very much like Europe, the 12 European countries. Before 1992, we must come, ourselves, with a joint program of economic development. If the southern African states do not do this one by one, they will die. [end recording]

Earlier in the day, Minister Botha attended a wreath-laying ceremony at a war cemetery in Budapest. Twenty members of the South African Air Force who were killed during World War II lie buried there.

At the news conference before his departure from Hungary last night, Mr Botha reaffirmed that South Africa was willing to accept immigrants from the East bloc. He said the country needed them.

South African missions in Bonn, Vienna, and Berne have already received a number of inquiries from job seekers in reply to a recent advertisement in West German newspapers.

Returns, Discusses Visit

*MB0501091790 Johannesburg Domestic Service
in English 0900 GMT 5 Jan 90*

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, says that the South African and Hungarian Governments have decided to create channels of communication that could lead to diplomatic ties between the two countries.

Mr Botha, who has just returned from a visit to Budapest, said that contact had also been made with other East bloc countries, with a view to similar developments.

He said that South Africa and Hungary could help each other in the fields of mining and agriculture. He also said that there was a possibility of South African Airways establishing routes to Budapest.

Contact 'May Lead' to Ties

*MB0501103890 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1033 GMT 5 Jan 90*

[By Craig Doonan]

[Text] Johannesburg Dec 5 SAPA—South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha hinted at further governmental contact which may lead to possible diplomatic relations with Eastern European countries, following his successful visit to Hungary this week.

Speaking at Jan Smuts Airport on his return on Friday, Mr Botha said South Africa was headed on the path towards diplomatic relations with Hungary following discussions with his Hungarian counterpart, Mr Gyula Horn, in Budapest.

South Africans could now obtain visas to travel to Hungary "without any problem", Mr Botha said.

He added the South African Government was also considering deregulating emigration regulations for Hungarians wanting to travel to this country.

The two countries would investigate the possibilities of co-operating in some aspects of trade, manufacture, industry, and tourism.

He said he was looking at the possibility of Hungarians emigrating to South Africa to relieve the shortage of certain skills in the country.

"This will improve our employment position," Mr Botha said.

Commenting on possible relations with other Eastern European countries, Mr Botha said: "There is already contact and we are talking...but leave it up to us".

He declined to elaborate on this point.

Asked whether South Africa and Hungary had decided to enter into diplomatic relations, Mr Botha said although progress had been made in relations between the two countries, the term "diplomatic relations" was difficult to fit into the "old styles or categories of diplomatic relations".

"Nowadays there's informal forms of relations made possible through communication technology.

Mr Botha said both ministers agreed to begin looking into the state of their relationship and what phases should formally begin.

These included possible "interest offices, consular offices and eventually embassies...but this will depend on what happens in South Africa and Hungary over the next few months".

"We both decided the time had come for governments to break down the walls that separate them and separate people from communication".

Mr Botha said the purpose of his meeting had been to explain to the Hungarian Government recent developments in South and southern Africa.

"In particular, I put to him concern of the governments of southern Africa and Africa that as a result of the historic developments in central and Eastern Europe there was a possibility the industrial world would concentrate on the funding of reconstructing these states and there will be less funds available for Africa."

Mr Botha said Mr Horn had also informed him of recent developments in Eastern Europe.

There were three main problems facing Eastern Europe at this stage, Mr Botha explained. These were the nationality/minority problem, the economical reconstruction problem and the problem of adjusting to a multiparty system.

Mr Botha said 150 million people were involved in these issues.

"South Africa has to ask where we fit in to these changes," Mr Botha said.

"With the developments in Namibia and Angola and South Africa's removing of the obstacles to a negotiated settlement...there is a great opportunity awaiting the states of southern Africa if they could also put together their act of economic reconstruction."

Botha Claims ANC Political Philosophy 'Dead'

*MB0501112990 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1124 GMT 5 Jan 90*

[Text] Johannesburg Jan 5 SAPA—It was time the ANC [African National Congress] discovered their "brother comrades" along with their ideologies in Eastern Europe were gone, and the ANC should realise what they wished to introduce to South Africa [SA] had died in the Soviet Union, SA Foreign Minister Mr Pik Botha said on Friday.

Speaking on his return from a visit to Hungary, Mr Botha said he did not want to clash ideologically with the banned organisation, but "it's almost an appeal".

"Stop these ideological differences, push them into the background and get down to a proper joint economic development plan, social development, education and training and infrastructure development.

"Unless we do so, South Africa will enter a phase of impoverishment," Mr Botha said at a press conference at Jan Smuts Airport.

The foreign minister said the end of white domination and apartheid must be accepted and South Africa should be governed together.

He said he recognised the government had to change and "we've started".

"This is generally recognised throughout the world; it's only elements within the ANC, for the sake of their own manouvering, who deny this.

"I say let's stop the game, let's stop the bluff, the South African Government has decided to remove the obstacles to negotiations."

Mr Botha said the difference between South Africa and Eastern Europe were the respective countries economies.

"We're economically sound...our economy is there. The ANC will have to thrown out their policy very fast because it has died.

"Their policy made people poor in Eastern Europe and Russia."

Mr Botha added the ANC's political philosophy was dead.

"Their brand of communism is dead. The SACP [South African Communist Party] must be to the Russians what Eugene Terreblanche is to the South African Government."

Commenting on reaction from certain African states against Mr Botha's visit to Hungary, he said: "I don't think the Hungarian Government will pay much attention to that".

Mr Botha said the Hungarian Government was aware SA President F.W. de Klerk had recently visited a number of African states as well as hosted African leaders in South Africa.

ANC Says Hungarian Leaders 'Betray' Majority
MB0501085590 Johannesburg THE STAR in English
5 Jan 90 p 1

[Text] London—The African National Congress claims Mr Pik Botha's visit to Hungary came only 10 days after they had been given an assurance by the Hungarian Government that it would not make contact with Pretoria.

The ANC "unequivocally" condemned the official reception of the South African Foreign Minister.

"This unprincipled act demonstrates both bad faith and a cynical disregard for international agreements," the ANC said in a statement issued in Lusaka yesterday.

"Only 10 days ago representatives of the Hungarian Government assured the ANC that it would have no contact with the apartheid regime.

"At mere three weeks ago Hungary voted with the rest of the world at the United Nations to continue to take effective action against apartheid South Africa [SA]. It is now clear that the true intention of the Hungarian leaders was to betray the majority of the people of South Africa by forming a racist partnership with apartheid."

The ANC also condemned moves by SA to recruit skilled immigrants from Hungary.

The ANC representative to Zimbabwe, Mr Max Mlonyeni, said if reports were true that Mr Botha had gone there to recruit immigrants, his organisation strongly opposed this.

"We oppose this because right now within South Africa there are millions of people who are being denied their citizenship. If there was equality this would not be happening because blacks would be doing all the jobs for which immigrants are being recruited," he said.

Embassy in London Criticizes UK TV Program
MB0501142890 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1418 GMT 5 Jan 90

[Text] London Jan 5 SAPA—The SA [South African] Embassy in London has slammed a British TV programme on South Africa's death row and judicial executions as "part of a pattern which attempts to downplay the changes which are taking place" in the country.

The programme was shown on ITV's "First Tuesday" series on Tuesday [2 January].

A senior embassy spokesman said today (Friday) he deplored the fact that embassy was not granted a request to preview it.

No attempt had been made by the producers to verify the facts contained in the programme.

The spokesman said the whole issue of the death penalty was in contention—even in the United Kingdom there had been some calls for its reimposition.

The SA Government was, however, receptive to all views and had requested that the whole matter of the death penalty be re-examined.

He points out that there had been a decrease in executions from 117 in 1988 to 53 in 1989.

Since the commencement of State President F.W. de Klerk's new administration, 27 stays of execution had been granted.

The spokesman said some of the legal advisers and lawyers quoted in the programme had made "irresponsible and ridiculous" statements on the issue of common purpose.

They had made it a "sort of invention" of the South African judiciary, whereas it was, in fact, derived from English law.

The spokesman concluded that the embassy would have expected an opportunity to comment on the "factual errors" contained on the programme, which was clearly an attempt to discredit South Africa to the outside world, as well as the "real changes" taking place in the country.

4 Jan Press Review on Current Problems, Issues
MB0401093090

[Editorial Report]

THE STAR

Abolishing Death Penalty Proves Challenge—A page 14 editorial in Johannesburg THE STAR in English on 4 January reads: "The sharp spotlight under which Britain's ITV television channel this week placed South Africa's extensive use of the death penalty—exploiting as a weapon the views of leading Natal judge Mr Justice

Didcott in favour of abolition—only serves to demonstrate that the problem will not go away until executions go away. The death penalty represents a challenge to First World civilised standards. It is a challenge which South Africa must have the courage to rise to, in spite of the Third World problems that still beset it, including a horrifying high level of violence and crime. Yorkshire Television, which made the programme 'South Africa's Death Factory', did itself no service by trying to turn the programme into a propaganda piece. Its press release took liberties with what the judge said and misrepresented the situation by claiming he had 'separated himself from his legal colleagues by refusing to send anyone to the gallows in 500 murder cases'. In spite of those shortcomings, however, the programme forces South Africans to see what damage the death penalty and the hundreds of executions in the past few years do to their country's already tarnished image. Mr Justice Didcott, while making clear his problems with the idea of using the death penalty as society's premeditated retaliation against violence, expressed the view that the problem of the death penalty could be approached incrementally, reducing gradually the number of death sentences until people lose faith in the deterrent theory. We believe the Government and Parliament, should be more bold. Abolition of the death penalty has the potential to be a major plank in political reform. It can bring the New South Africa an important step nearer realisation."

Open Amenities Concept Prevails at Sea Level—"This festive season, for the first time in the memory of most, the only colours that really mattered on the beaches of South Africa were red (ouch!) and brown, golden brown," and "all had discovered a rather curious truth: The Indian Ocean was not a 'group area' after all, simply another common amenity for all South Africans," observes a second editorial on the same page. THE STAR find it "most curious" that "this new spirit of swim-and-let-swim prevails mainly at sea-level. Up here in the Transvaal, where a Nationalist administration runs things, the province cannot find the nerve to open its chain of Overvaal resorts to everyone." "Can it be that the new Nationalism doesn't survive at higher altitude—or are the authorities just too timid to make inland waves?"

BUSINESS DAY

Politics Only Limit to Joint East European Trade—"The Hungarian invitation to Pik Botha for talks in Budapest today is welcome," says a page 4 editorial in Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English on 4 January. "There is going to be a scramble for trade, development and economic ties with former Iron Curtain countries, and the quicker South Africa gets in, the better." "If Hungary wants South African help, both countries will benefit. Official trade links—possibly followed by formal diplomatic ties—would open opportunities for much greater South African trade with the whole of the Eastern bloc, including the Soviet Union itself." "Once the breakthrough is made, the possibilities for doing deals

throughout Eastern Europe will be limited only by political developments in South Africa and the Soviet satellite states, and by whether South African businessmen can move fast enough to beat the U.S. and the rest of Europe to the markets that are opening up as communism crumbles. That Hungary is prepared to seek South African aid, and to publicise Botha's visit, is as much due to the new climate created by President de Klerk as it is to the political changes Hungary has experienced since October." BUSINESS DAY ends by warning: "Make the breakthrough by all means, but make sure that when the trade deals are signed, South African goods and services not covered by counter-trade are paid for in good, hard, Western currencies."

U.S. Congressman's 'Cold Eye' Politically Insignificant—A second editorial on the same page, headlined "Winter Flight", reads: "The arrival of Congressman Howard Wolpe in this sun-drenched land is easily misinterpreted by South Africans as an event of political significance when, in fact, it is simply part of the annual migration of congressional delegations to escape the worst of the North American winter weather in January and February. Neither the views of the congressman, nor American policies, nor South African fortunes will be much changed by the visit. Wolpe's views are fixed, as they have been since he began to acquire an interest in South African affairs, and have proved immune to evidence, argument and protestation. His influence on American foreign policy is, fortunately, not great, or he would presumably have persuaded his bellicose President to mount an invasion to change the government such as the recent invasion of Panama. South Africa's fortunes, we suspect, have improved as the local American presence has declined, and while we would not wish to fall into the logical fallacy known as post hoc propter hoc we do feel less threatened by congressional delegations than we once did. Wolpe is free to inspect the shanties and plastic shelters that house the victims of the sanctions policy, and make of it what he will, though we fear he will find our warm weather cold comfort, no doubt, and our sunny dispositions an offence to his cold eye."

THE CITIZEN

De Klerk Must Show Skill on 'Dangerous Situation'—"The start of a new decade is exciting, especially when the end of the decade sees the dawn of a new century," notes a page 6 editorial in Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English on 3 January. "In South Africa, this will be the decade in which the country's racial problems will finally come to a head. We are not among those who think the transition to a post-apartheid society will be quick and painless." "The future will be determined by how skillfully Mr de Klerk brings about change without losing control of a difficult and dangerous situation. Yet we have no doubt that he is moving in the right direction, even if we are going to have some heart-stopping moments on the way." "Such a complicated racial situation as we have cannot be sorted out overnight, but it will be before the year 2000—or at least the groundwork

will be laid by then. Whether the world leaves us alone is doubtful. Whether we will escape further sanctions is also doubtful. But the solution lies in our own hands and we will have to find the answer in the decade that has just begun. Our advice: Have courage, have faith, for this great land of ours will survive, albeit in a new form, and prosper."

5 Jan Press Review

MB0501111390

[Editorial Report]

THE STAR

President Bush Earns 'Bully-Boy' Status—"In the case of Panama, President Bush used protection of national interests as his defence for sending in U.S. forces to ferret out the corrupt and destabilising dictator General Noriega," declares Johannesburg THE STAR in English on 5 January in a page 8 editorial. "Mr Bush claimed he was restoring democracy in a region which directly concerned the U.S., was apprehending a leading figure in the noxious drug-trafficking industry, was protecting U.S. citizens and was preserving the operations of one of the world's major traffic routes, the Panama Canal. Critics do not buy this argument. Though the U.S. internally symbolises working democracy (and therefore political virtue), while Noriega was the living example of dictatorship, corruption and crime (symbolising political vice), there is no virtuous way in which the U.S. could flout Panamanian sovereignty—even if the resulting demise of General Noriega is a cause for celebration. So President Bush has the dubious distinction of earning himself bully-boy status even though ridding the world of a disreputable tyrant." President Bush's "gamble" may still have been "counter-productive," because a "superpower preaching justice and honour places its credibility in jeopardy when it uses international aggression to achieve its political aims."

RSA Reform Commitment Governs Trade Opportunities—A second editorial on the same page remarks that a free Hungary "means the doors to wider trade are being opened. [The Republic of] South Africa [RSA] will join the West in the scramble for business there and in other Iron Curtain countries. But South Africa's opportunities are also governed by how far it can demonstrate its

commitment to reform." "Hungary has reached the launching pad to prosperity. South Africa must meet the challenge of major internal change before it can also get there."

BUSINESS DAY

U.S. Not 'Moral Beacon'—"In deposing and capturing the Panamanian head of state, General Manuel Noriega, the United States has given the world another demonstration—usually associated with countries of a very different character—that superior military power can achieve objectives which lie beyond the reach of peaceful methods," states a page 4 editorial in Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English on 5 January. "Americans like to think of themselves as a moral beacon; Panama has made them the opposite."

TRANSVALER

'Cautious Optimism' for RSA New Year—"South Africa enters the New Year, and the new decade, with cautious optimism," says Johannesburg TRANSVALER in Afrikaans on 3 January in a page 6 editorial. "There are good signs on the political front that there can be progress toward establishing a desired new, just and stable country." There are "improved economic prospects," and also "signs that South Africa's image in Africa is improving considerably. It can lead to breakthroughs in this field and create an opportunity for the Republic to play the significant that it is destined to play."

BEELD

Concern Over Future of Former Koevoet Members—Johannesburg BEELD in Afrikaans on 4 January says in a page 14 editorial it is "important that a decision be taken as soon as possible about the future of the approximately 3,000 black former members of the Namibian police counterinsurgency unit, Koevoet." "Koevoet was promised South African protection from SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization] and Ovambo revenge if SWAPO were to win the election, which it did. Now no-one wants to claim responsibility for these promises. In less than three months these former Koevoet members will be unemployed in their own community, and will receive no salary from the South African Police. What will become of them if they have to stay in Namibia?" "If special measures have to be taken they should be taken soon."

Burkina Faso

Involvement in Liberian Rebellion Denied

AB0401205690 Ouagadougou Domestic Service
in French 1900 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Text] The Popular Front Government has categorically denied the news that Burkina Faso is involved in the preparation of the rebellion that took place in Liberia. According to a dispatch from the BURKINABE NEWS AGENCY, the Burkinabe authorities stated today that our country is against all forms of terrorism and that it would never occur to it to authorize any group to train on its territory with the aim of going to destabilize another country. Burkina Faso, which recently suffered from attempts at destabilization originating from outside, remains strictly attached to the principles of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries. The Liberian leaders would do better to go and find the reasons for this rebellion somewhere else rather than in Burkina Faso, a peace-loving country, whose government's ambition is to work for happiness of its people.

Ivory Coast

BBC Reports on Refugee Influx From Liberia

AB0401183390 London BBC World Service in English
16:55 GMT 4 Jan 90

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Whatever has or has not been happening in Nimba County, it has been enough to prompt refugees to flee across the border into neighboring Ivory Coast. It was Liberia's President Doe himself who first broke the news that there were problems in Nimba County. But according to him, it was quickly nipped in the bud with the arrest of two groups of armed dissidents who had invaded the country and the deaths of others. Troops were dispatched to the area, however. But the exiled opposition group, the National Patriotic Front, claimed that the troubles were on a larger scale and that what was going on in Nimba County was the beginning of a more general uprising against the Liberian Government. On the line to Abidjan, Robin White asked Elizabeth Blunt how many refugees have been fleeing from Nimba County into the Ivory Coast:

[Begin recording] [Blunt] It is extremely difficult to know because they are coming across over quite a length of border south of [name indistinct]. And they are coming into the villages all the way down that border, and most of them have relatives from both sides, so most of them are simply being absorbed into their families. But in Danane, which is the main town in the area, there are some who have nowhere to go. I get the impression that they were stranded there and I gathered that they were at the police station and government offices.

[White] Now, are people arriving in the Ivory Coast injured from the fighting?

[Blunt] Few, just very few. The hospital in Danane, which is the only hospital in the area, has just 3 patients who've arrived wounded. One came on the 28th, which is just after the first disturbances, and 2 more arrived on Tuesday this week. One of them, I gather, has gunshot wounds, and one has machete wounds. I am not sure about the other.

[White] What sort of stories are the refugees telling as to what's going on in Nimba County?

[Blunt] Extremely confused stories. One of the injured men said he'd been mistaken for a soldier by the rebels and chased and beaten up because of that. The man with the gunshot wound apparently said he was just a bystander and he got hit and he didn't hang around to see what was happening. He really didn't know what was happening but there was a lot of fighting going on and we think that was more recently.

[White] Have you been up to get any information at all as to what's happening now in Nimba County?

[Blunt] Only indirectly. I was told that people who came into Danane today to go to the market from the border villages say they still can hear shooting on the other side. The minister of information here, Mr Miremont, is in fact mayor of Bin Houhin, one of the border towns near where it all started. And he told a colleague of mine last night that it sounded from his town that heavy weapons were being used: mortars and artillery. So there must be something considerable going on in Nimba County and I gather on the Liberian side that you can't get out there, you go home, and the area has been completely cut off.

[White] Now, the Liberian Government has specifically charged the Ivory Coast of allowing rebels to come in through their country. Now, what are the Ivory Coast authorities saying?

[Blunt] Really nothing at all. The minister of information was speaking in his capacity as mayor of one of the border towns and he was simply saying what was happening and that refugees were coming across. I have spoken to the Liberian Embassy here. The ambassador has been recalled. But the charge d'affaires told me that the Embassy had delivered a protest note to the government and I asked him if he had had a reply and he said no, he had nothing at all from the Ivorian Government.

[White] Would you think that the Ivory Coast Government would like to see Doe overthrown?

[Blunt] I would imagine it would shed no tears for him at all. His predecessor, President Tolbert, who was killed in the original coup was a great friend of the president here. There were family ties between them. But whether the Ivory Coast would actively do anything, well, that's quite another matter. I imagine not. On the other hand, they do allow refugees to come here, including political refugees. I think they would stand aside and watch what will happen. [end recording]

No Plans for More Border Security

AB0501115890 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French
5 Jan 90 p 32

[Text] Ivory Coast, the land of hospitality, has once again confirmed this tradition of hospitality. From 8,000 to 10,000 Liberians, fleeing from violent clashes in the Nimba County since the end of December have found refuge in our country. This was disclosed by communication minister, Auguste Miremont, on 3 January.

On his return from Danane, Mr Miremont said that artillery shots could still be heard in the Butuo region and that several Liberian refugees were wounded. The reception given to some of them in Ivory Coast is exclusively based on humanitarian considerations and does not in any way demonstrate our country's involvement in the events in Liberia, a sovereign country, the minister explained. Our country's authorities are aware of the logistical difficulties caused by such a sudden and massive influx of persons, so they plan to refer the case to the Red Cross.

Meanwhile, from the military point of view, the Ivorian authorities are keenly following developments in the situation along the Liberian border. Our forces remain vigilant even if, for the moment, there are no plans to reinforce security there, Mr Miremont stated.

In Abidjan itself, an interministerial meeting has been held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to examine the problems posed by the influx of Liberian refugees.

Liberia

Doe Says Troops 'Prepared' To Protect Border

AB0401180990 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English
1709 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Text] President Samuel Kanyon Doe has said the situation in Nimba County is gradually returning to normal. Dr Doe was speaking today during a press conference held at the Executive Mansion at which he disclosed the latest incidents in the county. He said Liberian troops were prepared to protect the country's borders, and that this country will not be used as a battleground.

The president also said journalists could go to Nimba County to assess the situation for themselves, but at their own risk, since military operations were still continuing in the region.

He said government troops are continuing their operation in the county to restore peace in the region in the aftermath of the invasion by dissident troops. Dr Doe said the dissidents had attacked Butuo, Kabli, and have killed several innocent citizens. He did not, however, disclose the number of those killed, but said the situation in the country was returning to normal.

Dr Doe also said that the former Internal Affairs Minister Edward Kumo Sackor will not face trial in connection with the recent dissident activities in Nimba County. He said Minister Sackor was dismissed because he misled government on reports of dissident activities in Nimba County. He said Sackor is not linked with the armed dissident group. Mr Sackor has meanwhile dismissed as untrue reports that he had been arrested and detained at a local station in Monrovia. Minister Sackor said he had not even been harassed.

Mr Sackor was dismissed on Tuesday [2 January] for misleading government on dissident activities in Nimba County, but according to the president, security investigation is still continuing on the Sackor Committee.

Nimba Official Calls for Vigilance

AB0401200090 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English
1709 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Text] The acting Nimba County Superintendent Jackson Paye has directed local officials in the county to be vigilant against armed dissidents by denying them shelter. He told the citizens to report only unusual happenings and unfamiliar groups to the authorities.

According to an Internal Affairs Ministry release issued today, Superintendent Paye said he would not condone the acts by armed dissidents to use Nimba County as a battleground.

Mr Paye has, meanwhile, assured President Doe of his unflinching supports, loyalty, and solidarity to the government and people of Liberia.

Army Said 'in Full Control'

AB0401281890 Paris AFP in English 1730 GMT
4 Jan 90

[Text] Monrovia, Jan 4 (AFP)—President Samuel Doe said Thursday that the army was in full control of the situation in Liberia's Nimba County after an apparent destabilization plot by dissidents who entered the country on December 24.

The dissidents killed a number of people and burned several towns in Nimba County, bordering Ivory Coast, including that of Butuo, Mr Doe said.

The victims included children and members of the ruling National Democratic Party of Liberia (NDPL), he told a press conference carried live on national radio.

Members of the NDPL who managed to escape had their houses burned by the dissidents, the president said.

Mr Doe insisted that only one Liberian soldier has been killed and another wounded, and said the army was now in full and complete control of the situation in Nimba County.

But he said the security forces were continuing mopping up operations for dissidents not yet arrested.

Justice Minister Jenkins Scott told reporters Wednesday most of the 96 dissidents who entered the country had been "captured or eliminated".

Mr. Doe told the press conference that those arrested had been brought to Monrovia and would be given a fair trial. He refused to say how many dissidents had been arrested.

The dissidents are said to have entered Liberia from Ivory Coast, and the Liberian leader described the matter as a case of "international terrorism".

Liberia has officially protested to the Ivorian Government, but had received no reply, he said.

The matter was also reported to the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

Mr Doe warned that use of a "neighboring country" to carry out subversive activities against Liberia would no longer be allowed, saying Liberian troops were prepared to fight in countries harboring hostile dissidents.

The government had also contacted Libya and Burkina Faso to learn if they knew anything about the dissidents, he said.

According to authorities here, some of those arrested had confessed receiving training in the two countries.

Mr Doe said journalists were welcome to go to those areas in Nimba County where the dissidents had been active, but their safety could not be guaranteed because there were "still military operations going on in the area".

Meanwhile leaders in Nimba County have condemned as "senseless, unwarranted and wicked" attempts to use the county as the "front door" for subversive activities against the Liberian Government.

In a letter to President Doe, they pledged their continuing support for him.

In another development, businessman Robert Phillips, a principal defendant in a 1985 treason trial, was Thursday found beheaded at his home in Monrovia with his wrists cut.

Police said that they had no clue about that matter.

In reply to a journalist's question on the death of Mr. Phillips, Mr. Doe said that Monrovia was "a large city where anything can happen", and warned that people should be careful with their lives.

Protest Sent to Abidjan

*LD0401185890 Paris International Service
in French 1800 GMT 4 Jan 90*

[Excerpt] The situation in Liberia: President Samuel Doe said today in a news conference that the Army is controlling the situation in Nimba region where rebels

have attempted to overthrow his regime since 24 December. The head of state asserted that soldiers continue to search the region to arrest opponents who are still at large. During this very news conference, Samuel Doe warns that he does not rule out the exercise of the right of pursuit against the rebels who have found refuge across the border into the Ivory Coast. A protest was sent to Abidjan. The Ivorian authorities say that they have behaved strictly on a humanitarian basis in welcoming the reportedly nearly 10,000 civilians who have fled from the fighting. [passage omitted]

Doe Gives News Conference

*AB0401212290 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English
2000 GMT 4 Jan 90*

[Text] President Samuel Kanyon Doe has disclosed that the situation in Nimba County is rapidly returning to normal as security forces continue mopping out the last vestiges of dissidents who entered the country on December 24 last year. Dr Doe made the statement today at the Executive Mansion when he addressed a news conference to provide a true picture of what is taking place in Nimba County. He however lamented the numerous hardships residents of the area were experiencing as a result of the December 24 armed dissident invasion from neighboring Ivory Coast.

[Begin Doe recording] The dissidents completely destroyed the towns of Butuo and Karnplay, killing several innocent citizens who have refused to join them or provide them food. You will recall that in a recent BBC interview, Charles Taylor, who claimed to be the leader of the dissident group, attempted to mislead the world by saying that his rebels have killed 250 Liberian soldiers. This information is completely erroneous, and has no other intention but to deceive the international community.

As I indicated in my broadcast on 30 December, only one of our security personnel in the person of Staff Sergeant (Jolliba McCarthy) was killed. Perhaps the large number of individuals supposedly killed by the Charles Taylor group must have been those innocent and defenseless citizens.

As you may recall, Charles Taylor, in that interview, indicated that the area where the rebel forces attacked was littered with dead bodies. I wish to further inform you that the situation in Nimba County at present is rapidly returning to normal, as our security forces are continuing their efforts to mop out the remaining dissidents, who fled the initial scene of the attack and are taking refuge in nearby forest areas.

We seize this opportunity to once again assure our citizens and foreign residents that the situation is under control, and the security forces have been directed to ensure that peaceful citizens are not molested. Thank you very much! [end recording]

The President's statement was immediately followed by a question-and-answer period, during which journalists posed several questions to him on the dissident invasion, among other issues:

[Begin recording] [Reporter] You have just informed the citizens of Liberia that the information given by Charles Taylor on BBC is untrue, that 250 Liberia soldiers were killed. But BBC news reports monitored in Monrovia this morning indicated that renewed fighting is still going on in Nimba County, and in that fighting, 8 Liberian soldiers were killed, and in fact that the rebel forces are pushing toward Saniquellie.

[Doe] First of all, I live here. I am a citizen of Liberia. BBC is not a citizen of Liberia [laughter] and they only can report what is sent to them. And I don't want you to—as a true journalist, as a true patriot of this country—to take instructions from BBC. I am telling you what is going on in Nimba County. If BBC thinks that fighting is still going on, they can come here and go there.

[Reporter] Have you received any report from your field commander that Liberians are crossing over to Ivory Coast seeking refuge, who in fact were interviewed by BBC?

[Doe] Well, this is not to my attention. [sentence as heard] As I stated in my statement, the situation occurred on the 24th of December. And from the 24th up to the New Year—I mean Christmas and the New Year—before our troops moved in. By that time they had captured Butuo. And what the people do when they reach any town is they ask for the NDPL [National Democratic Party of Liberia] supporters, or when you are searched and find that you get NDPL card, they kill you. [sentence as heard] And so the residents of the villages decided to escape for their lives. So maybe it could be one of those who happened to cross on the other side.

[Reporter] Mr President, do you agree with many persons who say that the checkpoints are not well inspected, and that people and the rebels entered the country through the checkpoints and other things?

[Doe] No, I don't agree with them, because if the people coming here... [changes thought] Remember that we are members of the Mano River Union, we are members of ECOWAS [Economic Community of West African States], and we put our hands on the ECOWAS documents which says the people should have access to free movement. And if somebody is coming into the country, dressed in uniform, the security guard has the right to question them. But if he is like you, he decides to go through Nimba and go to Ivory Coast, will the people stop you? They don't see anything. You've got no weapon. Will they see you as a rebel? [words indistinct] As a matter of fact we have over 22 checkpoints between the Ivorian and Liberian border—22 checkpoints. But the people can cross. So this is the situation.

[Reporter] Apparently, it looks as if Ivory Coast has been directly indicted for, at least, allowing the dissidents to cross from their border to Liberia. And I understand that

this is not the first time. I do not know whether this is correct. I would like it to be confirmed, and if it's true, my own information says that about [words indistinct]. What steps will the government now take on a permanent basis to make sure that does not happen again?

[Doe] As you know, in international affairs no country wants to be the aggressor. And so we always dialogue. We will always send in a diplomat to negotiate. To answer your question, some [words indistinct] to this question. We continue to have this kind of problem with Cote d'Ivoire [Ivory Coast] with these dissidents, and each time this thing occurs, I send a high delegation to Abidjan to see President Houphouet-Boigny, and he assured me that nobody will use his territory to work against me. And this has happened more than five, six occasions. I have sent top all my colleagues to intervene. According to reports, (Toweh King), who is causer of these activities, is in Abidjan. (Chatelah) is in Abidjan, and these people come here, innocent people are killed. And I cannot continue to allow this kind of thing to happen. When they are in a peaceful country, they want us to be [words indistinct]

(Toweh) and (Chatelah) can't do nothing to me, but the innocent people, the thousand children, or hundreds of people they kill in Nimba. [sentence as heard] We are trying to promote the revolution, self-sufficiency in food production, and people are passing through the Ivory Coast to come here and cause chaos. And so this has been a topic that we have been discussing since 1989—I mean 1980.

And so we have informed those that are supposed to be informed to see what they can do. As I said earlier, Liberia is not an aggressive country to attack other countries. We allow people to pass through and out.

We are not saying it is wrong for Ivory Coast to keep opposition in the Ivory Coast. Once they are there [words indistinct], we have nothing to do with them. But once they decide to use other lands as springboards to come and kill people, then, of course, we have every reason to feel that that government is in support of what those people are doing. And so we have alerted the international community to see what they can do, so that when this kind of thing happens next time, we cannot be accused of being aggressive. And I want to repeat that we have forces here who know how to cross borders, but we don't want to encroach on anybody's territory.

[Doe] If you heard President Bush the other day before they invaded Panama, he said that they tried to negotiate. They have been using all the peaceful means, and the end result was to invade Panama. And so from 1980 up to now, we are still trying to appeal to President Houphouet-Boigny to keep his eye on these dissidents so that they don't come here to cause confusion. We do not want to cross into anybody's territory, but mind you, the army of this country is not a 1939 army or 1950 or 1940 army. We are talking about the armies of the 80's, I mean, 90's, and we know how to cross borders. But I

repeat, that Liberia will not be [words indistinct] to be the fighting ground. We can fight elsewhere. [end recording]

Against the disclosure by President Doe that several innocent Liberian citizens were being killed by the Charles Taylor's invaders in Nimba County, the question that comes to one's mind is: Why did the Liberian Government not immediately dispatch security forces in the area to arrest the situation? Well, here is what the president had to say:

[Begin Doe recording] The reason why we delayed in sending people out there is that in the military, you can't just send people to go and fight when they don't know what they are going to fight for, or what they are fighting for or against. The army (?commander) sends people to investigate to find how the terrain is looking, how the ground—I mean, the situation there. They have got to study it. The same way before you put news on the radio you have to edit it. [laughter]

Before they attack, they've got to find out the kind of weapon, they have got to know the kind of weapon they are using, the clothes they wear, their (?motive). I mean, all these things got to be studied by the army before they can move. How many men are required? I did not want to send troops out there to spoil the people's Christmas or their holiday, even though we have people or camp in Gbarnga, we have troops in Ganta, they could have moved right in there. But they cannot move without order. [end recording]

One other thing that seems to have raised many eyebrows during the president's briefing today was when he disclosed that government troops dispatched to Nimba have arrested a car used by the dissidents with licence plate Senate 47:

[Begin Doe recording] Our troops down there arrested one car that was used by the rebels, license plate Senate 47. So, how come for a senate car to be in the hands of the rebels? We are going to investigate. [end recording]

Speaking further, Dr Doe said the dusk-to-dawn curfew imposed this week in Nimba County will be lifted as soon as the situation in the county returns to normal.

Observers Note 'Isolation' of Samuel Doe Regime

*AB0501095390 Libreville Africa No 1 in French
0730 GMT 5 Jan 90*

[Text] The Liberian president, whose regime has been subjected to harsh trials by the rebellion that broke out in Nimba County at the Ivorian border, has again come to the forefront. At a news conference yesterday in Monrovia, Samuel Doe threatened to chase insurgent elements into the territory of other countries which, according to him, serve as a base for his opponents.

When one recognizes that 8,000 to 10,000 Liberians, according to Ivorian Communication Minister Auguste Miremont, have crossed the border to take refuge in

Ivory Coast, the pursuit contemplated by President Samuel Doe, would certainly be into Ivorian territory. It must be pointed out that Monrovia and Yamoussoukro have no agreement on the right of pursuit of opposition elements, although Liberia has such agreements with Guinea and Sierra Leone. President Doe has expressed surprise at the silence of Ivory Coast, the Economic Community of West African States, ECOWAS, and the OAU on the matter. Burkina Faso and Libya, which have been accused by Monrovia of training and arming the Liberian rebels, also remain silent to the [word indistinct] of the Doe regime.

According to observers, the calm reaction by countries implicated in the abortive plot against President Doe and the ECOWAS and OAU have confirmed the isolation of the Liberian regime.

*** President Doe Undecided on 1991 Elections**

*34000095A Monrovia DAILY OBSERVER in English
6 Nov 89 pp 1, 9*

[Excerpt] President Samuel Kanyon Doe has reportedly said that his government will reconsider its decision closing down the ELCM Community Radio and two independent newspapers, FOOTPRINTS TODAY and SUNTIMES.

President Doe is reported to have given the assurance during a meeting with two prominent Nigerian journalists who visited the country as guests of the Press Union of Liberia (PUL).

The two journalists, Mr Ray E'pu, editor-in-chief of Newswatch magazine, and Mr Nduka Irabor, editor of the African Guardian, had earlier appealed to the President to re-open the media institutions in question so as to facilitate press freedom and democracy in the country.

Speaking to the Liberian press following their meeting with President Doe recently the Nigerian journalists said they had urged the President to have government take legal action against media institutions in case of future trouble rather than close down such news organs.

According to the two journalists, the President, giving reasons for government's closure action, said Liberian journalists are politicians who practise "yellow journalism". He said some are former True Whig Party members who write stories and use their news organs to promote opposition activities.

The President is said to have pointed out that if his government applies half as much pressure on journalists as they apply on him, most journalists would "run out of the country".

1991 Elections

Asked if he would contest the 1991 general elections, Dr Doe told the Nigerians that his decision would be made next year. He then informed Messrs Ekpu and Irabor

that he is presently working on his Masters at the Ibrahim Babangida School of International Studies.

The Nigerian journalists said the President also informed them of his intention to obtain a Ph.D. in political science after completing his Masters program. The President said if the University of Liberia does not have a doctoral at that time, he would consider going to Cambridge University in Britain, indicating that these are variables to be considered with regard to his candidacy in the 1991 elections.

On the opposition, the journalists said that they were told by the President that the opposition parties have no programs or plans and that because of this, they are not seen by people as an alternative to the ruling party.

Asked if his government will permit international observers for the 1991 general elections, Dr Doe replied in the affirmative. [passage omitted]

*** Students Arrested for Political Ban Violation**

34000095B Monrovia DAILY OBSERVER in English
17 Oct 89 p 4

[Article by S. Togba Slewion; "3 UL Students Detailed"]

[Excerpts] Three students of the University of Liberia (UL) have been arrested and subsequently detained at a local security cell.

The detained students have been identified as D. Momolu Lavala, acting chairman of the banned Student Unification Party (SUP); Richard Panton and Trouble Suah, who are said to be members of the SUP.

The students were reportedly arrested last Friday, October 13, 1989, by UL security personnel in collaboration with members of the Joint Security and subsequently detained by both the Monrovia City Hall cell and the National Police Headquarters. Student Lavala was said to be detained at the City Hall cell while students Panton and Suah were detained at police headquarters. [passage omitted]

Although reasons for the arrest and detention of the students have yet to be given, it should be noted that SUP, of which the detained students are members, recently issued a release dated October 3, 1989, and signed by Patrice Wiah, assistant secretary of the party, informing the UL administration that the party was re-emerging to engage in student politics irrespective of the present ban placed on student politics by the government. [passage omitted]

*** East Europe Events Prompt Third World Study**

34000095C Monrovia DAILY OBSERVER in English
10 Nov 89 p 4

[Editorial: "The Widening Ripples of Eastern Europe"]

[Text] The political changes sweeping through Eastern Europe, coupled with the enthusiastic responses with which

the Western nations are greeting these changes, should raise the concern of all Third World countries. Heretofore Third World countries looked to the West for economic assistance through loans and grants. They also often played between the super powers, siding with the wing which signalled a more attractive economic package. This game, however, seems to have come to an end.

All the big donors, including the United States and the EEC countries, are running head over heels offering economic assistance to erstwhile acolytes of Marxism-Leninism who are now fleeing from the folds of "The God That Failed." We in the Third World should not watch these earth-shaking events with unconcern. We should closely study these shifts and determine what effects they could have upon our own situation, politically as well as developmentally.

It was, to an extent, a great advantage to Third World countries to balance in a world divided between two camps. In light of such a division, the camp of one super power served as a protector against any encroachment upon a small country by another super power or its surrogate. In this way the world was able to maintain a balance of power without engaging in major global conflagrations.

The 1980s, perhaps even the 20th century, are closing in on Communism. This totalitarian political system is being dismantled at a rate the West can hardly keep pace with. Communist leaders are responding to the cries of their people for freedom. We may even venture to say that at long last the fundamental rights of man, as enshrined in the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, is fast becoming a reality—even behind the Iron Curtain. Thanks to Glasnost.

With the West rushing to the economic rescue of Eastern Europe, we in the Third World should begin to rethink our situation, yet our political and economic houses in order, or we might be left out in the cold.

What is going on in Eastern Europe may not be sufficient proof of the failure of Communism; rather it may be a reflection on the rigidity with which leaders imposed the system upon their people. It also exposes the hypocrisy and lies which they masked behind communist solidarity.

We should closely watch events as they unfold before our eyes; we should study them and the possible effects they may have upon us, and we should make adjustments in our own political systems to cope with the new world order which is emerging. While it may seem that Eastern Europe is far away, the ripples which may expand in the Baltic and even along the Danube could go far beyond the shores of Europe touching other parts of the world. We are living in a time of great changes. And the good or bad effects of these changes will devolve on those who possess the will to adjust to the changing times.

*** Seminar Examines Growing Islamic Influence**

34000095D Monrovia DAILY OBSERVER in English
6 Nov 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Seeking a Common Ground"]

[Text] A three-day seminar opens today at Trinity Cathedral to educate Episcopalians on how to deal with Islam and how to eliminate some of the fears, most of them unfounded, surrounding the religion. In a letter to the congregation yesterday, the bishop of the Diocese of Liberia explained that he found it necessary to organize such a seminar in light of the growing influence of Islam in the society.

Liberia has always been looked at historically as a Christian nation, and therefore, for a long time Christians have seemed to dominate the social and political life of the nation. Today, however, there is a rising tide of Islamism sweeping through the country. Not only are there numerous mosques in Monrovia but throughout the country and in communities where Muslims made up a negligible percentage of the population, there are now mosques and growing Islamic boroughs.

Despite this growing presence and the daily interaction among adherents of the two faiths much ignorance abounds which sometimes results in suspicion, contempt, fears and looming hostility. The flare-up last year in Gbarnga between the Muslims and a tribal secret society bears witness to these fears and suspicions.

Consequently, there is a great need for education and for arriving at a common ground of understanding. Most of what Christians Liberians know about Muslims is what they have learnt through Western media and what is heard about flare-ups in the Middle East or riots in Nigeria between the Muslim sects and other religious groups.

Liberia, constitutionally, believes in, practices and upholds religious tolerance. However, that tolerance has never been put to real test because Christians have long been seen active in social and civic affairs; but with Muslims taking a greater foothold and becoming more assertive, we must begin to understand one another better and stop the aloofness.

The Episcopal Church is leading the path to understanding through education, and we think other institutions should be encouraged to follow similar paths. We should be mindful of the fact that two of our closest neighbors are predominantly Muslim, and if we must know our neighbours well and interact with them on friendly and brotherly terms, we must study those social and religious structures which govern their lives. Let us therefore take advantage of the seminar and learn from it. We hope other such seminars will follow not only as a Christian initiative, but also as an initiative from the Muslim side so that one may consider the other as the 'devil within'. In so doing, we would be helping to remove the suspicions and fears of one another.

Mali**President Traore Gives New Year's Address**

AB0101183690 Bamako Domestic Service in French
2000 GMT 31 Dec 89

[New Year's address by President Moussa Traore; place not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] Dear countrymen, as the new year begins, I am particularly happy to express to everyone of you, to your families, and to all your close friends, my wishes for good health, happiness, and prosperity, in an atmosphere of peace and concord. I also send my wishes to Malians abroad as well as to all citizens of friendly countries and who are presently living among us and are working tirelessly for the strengthening of the ties of friendship and cooperation between their respective peoples and the people of Mali.

The year 1989, which is about end, has witnessed important events at both the national and the international levels. For the Malian people, 1989 has been, like previous years, a year of sustained effort to surmount the many obstacles that slow our march toward progress. The spirit of dignity, selflessness, and patriotism that characterizes the Malian people has enabled them to embark upon important projects in the path which—and I am very happy to say so—we have freely chosen.

Dear countrymen, you may recall at this same period of last year, I called on you, on behalf of the party and the government, to place the year 1989 under the sign of the success for the economic reform programs we committed ourselves to implementing. In that direction, the Democratic Union of Malian People [UDPM] and the Government were called upon to give new impetus to their methods of operations in order to mobilize all the active forces of the nation for the success of these commitments. [passage omitted]

Dear countrymen, during the past year, international relations have witnessed real detente which has permitted us to reduce progressively the traditional antagonism and ushered in a spirit of exchange of views and dialogue. The democratic movement generated by this new situation will have repercussions on all the international relations at all levels. Everything must be done in this new context in order to strengthen cooperation for development between freedom, justice, and peace-loving nations.

This is an occasion to express happiness over the sharp decline in the arms race and the resolution of certain trouble spots. In Africa, Namibia will soon acquire its total and full sovereignty. This is the result of the unshakable determination of the Namibian people to be free. May this example inspire the South African authorities and make them to be resolutely committed to dismantling apartheid completely. In this direction, the declaration of the OAU ad hoc committee on southern

Africa made at the meeting of that organization last August in Harare, constitutes a solid basis for a peaceful solution to this tragedy.

May the new year also bring to the martyred people of Palestine and Lebanon the much desired peace, thanks to a just and lasting settlement of these conflicts, which have plunged the Middle East into mourning.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all our people once again and to express to them my deep gratitude for the militant and patriotic support they gave me during the 14 months I spent as chairman of the OAU.

Malians, the new year starting will be a decisive one for us in our task of nation building. We must pursue the objectives to which we freely committed ourselves, namely: achieving food self-sufficiency; fighting against drought and desert encroachment; opening up the country to the outside world and rural development; and establishing a balanced economic development. Therefore, I call on all the active forces of the nation to pool their efforts for the rapid improvement of the state's

resources. It is the duty of all Malians to find adequate solutions to the various problems our country is presently facing. To this end, vigorous actions will be undertaken and intensified, both at the levels of party and the government, to ensure the regular payment of salaries of the state civil servants. [passage omitted]

Dear countrymen, this decade that is just ending has been very difficult for the developing countries in general and for Africa in particular. But the economic difficulties which, in some cases, have been imposed on us by external factors, must in no way turn us away from the noble virtues that have always made our peoples great. I am pleased to name a few of them—solidarity; justice, devotion, discipline, self-respect, and respect for others.

It is on this note of hope that I would like to end my address by urging you all, Malians inside or outside the country, to be mobilized in unity, discipline, and solidarity, in order to make the year 1990 a year of great victory and joy for our people and our dear fatherland. Happy New Year 1990! Long live peace! Long live the Republic!

END OF

FICHE

DATE FILMED

8 JAN 1990

